

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the following paragraphs in the specification:

[0037] As shown in the drawings, the lute 1 comprises a bulging sound box 2. This is shaped so that it tapers down to a virtual tip 3. At the tip 3, a neck 4 is attached. This neck 4 comprises a fingerboard 5, provided with frets 33 [not explicitly shown]. At its free end, the neck 4 bears a peg box 6.

[0042] On the under side of the face 12, an area 21 free from transverse ribs is provided. This ribless area 21 consists of first part [2] 22 and a second part 23 arranged on opposite sides of end piece 15. The first part extends between the end piece 15 and the end 24 of the rim 13 away from the neck. The second part 23 borders on the first part 22 and is about the same centerline length as the first part 22. The second part extends between mutually opposed edge portions 25 and 26. In one arrangement at least two laths 27 which in this example are parallel to the centerline, run under, without contact, at least that transverse rib 29 which lies closest to the unribbed area as shown in Figure 4. This is accomplished in that the rib 29 comprises a tunnel-shaped recess at the intersection between rib 29 and laths 27. This avoids contact between laths 27 and rib 29, and affords passage of sound by way of the laths also into that part of the area which is provided with ribs. In the example illustrated in Figure 4 rib 29 rests on abutments 34.